

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning and cutting sheet-type work material, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a layer of sheet-type work material carried by a support surface;
- b) providing ~~the~~ means to automatically scan and cut said work material, said step of providing means to automatically scan and cut said work material including providing a scanning and cutting table having, a frame, said support surface being mounted to said frame, a carriage mounted to said frame for movement back-and-forth in a first coordinate direction in response to commands issued from a controller, and said step of providing means to automatically scan and cut said work material further including providing a cutting head and a scanning head mounted on said carriage, each for movement independently of the other back-and-forth along the carriage in response to commands issued from the controller in a second coordinate direction approximately perpendicular to said first coordinate direction;
- c) automatically scanning said work material to determine a periphery thereof, ~~and to allow for the detection of flaws in said work material;~~
- ~~d) establishing the layout of a marker on said work material;~~
- e) ~~d)~~ nesting a pattern piece onto said work material;
- f) ~~e)~~ nesting a subsequent pattern piece onto said work material while simultaneously cutting the previously nested pattern piece from said work material; and
- ~~g) f)~~ repeating steps ~~e and f~~ d and e until all of said pattern pieces are cut from said marker.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A method as defined by claim 1, wherein said work material comprises a hide.

4. (Original) A method as defined by claim 1 including the further step of providing a vacuum generator for drawing said work material against said support surface.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

providing a layer of impermeable material;
covering said work material with said layer of impermeable material for
being cut with said work material; and
operating said vacuum generator to draw said work material and said layer
of impermeable material down against said support surface.

6. (Original) A method as defined by claim 1, wherein said step of
automatically scanning includes, automatically detecting said flaws in said work
material.

7. (New) A method as defined by claim 1, wherein said step of providing
a cutting head and a scanning head includes providing the cutting head and the
scanning head on opposite longitudinal sides of the carriage relative to each other.